FALMOUTH CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SURVEY

There are nine articles in the charter, each outlining roles and procedures for the town government. The Charter Review Committee can amend and clarify articles. It cannot change the form of government.

In your opinion, are there articles that need amending and in what way? Please be as specific as possible.
For reference; a summary of the articles in the current Charter are listed on the reverse. Copies of the Charter are available online at www.falmouthmass.us/charter, at all the Falmouth Libraries, and the Town Clerk’s office.

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*Please be as specific as possible on where and how you think the article(s) need to be amended.
Comments can be made below or on attached pages.

The previous CRC made recommendations for 14 changes to the charter in 2006. 3 did not pass Town Meeting.
Should these 3 issues be reconsidered by the current charter review committee?

1. Remove the residency requirement for the town manager
   reconsider__________  do not reconsider__________

2. Remove the residency requirement for department heads
   reconsider__________  do not reconsider__________

3. Clarify §C7-2H that the three consecutive 3-year term limit applies to all multi-member bodies appointed by selectmen.
   reconsider__________  do not reconsider__________

If you would like to be contacted to give further input to the committee please include your contact information.

Optional: Name_________________________  Precinct__________

Email_________________________  Phone____________________

Please return the completed form by May 1, 2012 to:
By mail: Charter Review Committee
         59 Town Hall Square
         Falmouth, MA 02540-2761
By Email: Charter Review Committee
          charterreview@falmouthmass.us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INPUT
FALMOUTH HOME RULE CHARTER SUMMARY

Preamble: We, the people of the Town of Falmouth, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendments of the constitution of the Commonwealth, do hereby adopt the following home rule charter for this town.

Article I: Incorporation, Form of Government and Powers: Provides for Representative Town Meeting, Selectmen, Town Manager form of government.

Article II: Representative Town Meeting: Shall exercise all legislative powers of the town. No more than 252 Town Meeting members elected to three-year overlapping terms from equal, contiguous precincts. Total number fixed by by-law. At present there are, 243 Town Meeting members, 27 from each of 9 precincts. Two Town Meetings shall be held annually: 1) in the spring when financial matters will be acted upon; and 2) in the fall. The Moderator, elected by Town ballot for 3-year terms, presides over Town Meeting. Selectmen may call Special Town Meetings as needed. Moderator shall appoint Rules and Procedures Committee to review Town Meeting procedures and submit recommendations to Town Meeting. Attendance of Town Meeting members published in Falmouth Enterprise. Members with a reasonable excuse may be excused by Town Clerk.

Article III: Board of Selectmen: Five elected Selectmen with three-year overlapping terms; minimal compensation. Board serves as the chief executive goal-setting and policy-making board of the town. Appoints Town Manager and other town officers and town boards.

Article IV: Other Elected Town Boards and Officers: Boards and officers elected at annual town election are: School Committee (9), Library Trustees (7), Planning Board (7), Housing Authority (5-one appointed by State), Town Moderator, and Town Clerk.

Article V: Town Manager: Manager serves as chief administrative officer of the town. Responsible for administering and coordinating all employees, activities, and departments under his control. The Manager shall implement the goals and carry out the policies of the Board of Selectmen.

Article VI: Citizen Participation—Election and Recall: All town elections non-partisan. Date of elections established by by-law. Provisions for special Town Meetings, referenda and recall.

Article VII: Appointed Town Boards: There are 33 Boards and committees appointed by the Board of Selectmen including: Assessors (3), Conservation Commission (7), Board of Health (5), Council on Aging (7), Historical Commission (7), Recreation Committee (7), Waterways (7), Beach Committee (5), Human Services Committee (9), Zoning Board of Appeals (5), Historic District Commission (5). No more than three (3) consecutive three-year terms.

Article VIII: Financial Provisions and Procedures: Finance Committee (15) established by by-law. (Currently nominated by Moderator and elected by Town Meeting.) Reviews annual budget submitted by Town Manager and Board of Selectmen and makes recommendations to Town Meeting. Town Manager shall develop and annually revise a long-range general financial plan and prepare a five-year capital improvement plan for the town.

Article IX: General and Transitional Provisions: At least every seven (7) years, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Charter Review Committee for the purpose of recommending changes to the Charter, based upon active solicitation of suggestions from the public and town officials.

Complete Falmouth Home Rule Charter available online at www.falmouthmass.us/charter or at all Falmouth libraries, and the Town Clerk's office.